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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JERUSALEM 001996

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE; NEA/SA/EX FOR AUSTIN-FERGUSON; DEPT  
FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR DS/IP/NEA; NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: CLASHES IN GAZA CITY BETWEEN PA  
SECURITY FORCES: MAY 17, 2005 (1700 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint Embassy/ConGen cable.

11. (SBU) Summary: At least three Palestinians were shot and injured the evening of May 16 in Gaza City during an altercation that broke out between members of the PA civil police and the anti-riot police unit. The ensuing gun battle went on for several hours. In the West Bank, PA police on May 16 discovered the remains of a Palestinian man and woman in a water well near Jenin. The police are investigating, but suspect that the dead Palestinians were killed more than three years ago on suspicion of collaborating with Israel. The IDF on May 16 conducted land-clearing operations near Nablus. The Israeli High Court on May 16 revoked an injunction that prohibited work on construction of the separation barrier in the vicinity of the Ariel settlement. End summary.

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West Bank  
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12. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Death: Nil.

-- Injury: Nil.

-- Bodies discovered: The PA police on May 16 discovered the remains of a Palestinian man and woman in a water well in the vicinity of Qabatiya village, south of Jenin. The police suspect that the dead Palestinians were killed more than three years ago on suspicion of collaborating with Israel.

-- Shooting: Unknown gunmen on May 16 fired gunshots at an Israeli vehicle traveling in the vicinity of 'Azzun village, east of Qalqiliya. There were no injuries reported from this incident.

13. (SBU) ARRESTS/SECURITY:

-- Incursions: The IDF on May 16 entered villages in the Salfit district in search of wanted militants. There were no arrests reported from these operations.

-- Arrest: Israeli Police on May 16 arrested a Palestinian in Samu' village, south of Hebron, for killing his Israeli mother-in-law and injuring his wife during a May 15 incident in the Israeli city of Beersheva.

14. (SBU) DEMOLITIONS:

-- The IDF on May 16 destroyed three houses and an unknown number of shacks in the northern West Bank villages of Zububa and Ti'innik northwest of Jenin, for lacking of proper building permits.

-- The IDF on May 16 leveled approximately 30 dunams of land and uprooted trees around Kafr Qaddum, west of Nablus.

15. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- The Israeli High Court on May 16 revoked an injunction that prohibited work on construction of the separation barrier in the vicinity of the Ariel settlement.

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Gaza  
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16. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries/Arrest: UNRWA reported that three Palestinians were shot and injured the evening of May 16 in Gaza City during an altercation that broke out between members of the PA civil police and the anti-riot police unit. According to Palestinian reports, civil police officers detained a member of the police anti-riot unit for questioning. Other members of the arrested man's unit then converged upon police

headquarters in an effort to free their colleague, firing their weapons as they arrived. The ensuing gun battle went on for several hours. While PA sources reported that as many as 10 Palestinians were injured by gunfire, UNRWA could confirm that only three Palestinians were admitted to hospital.

-- Mortars/Rockets: The IDF reported that Palestinian militants fired one mortar shell at Gani Tel settlement May 17.

-- Shootings: The IDF reported that Palestinian militants launched two shooting attacks at IDF outposts near Rafiah Yam, one on May 16 and the other on May 17.

17. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open May 17, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction.

-- Erez Crossing was open for Palestinians May 16, and a total of 3,936 laborers and 182 merchants crossed into Israel.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was closed May 16.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers May 17, but was open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was open May 17.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures May 17.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed May 17. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi, except males aged 16-30.  
Pearce